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ADVANCES IN PUBLIC ECONOMICS: UTILITY, CHOICE AND WELFARE

A Festschrift for Christian Seidl

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This *Festschrift* in honor of Christian Seidl combines a group of prominent authors who are experts in areas like public economics, welfare economic, decision theory, and experimental economics in a unique volume. Christian Seidl who has edited together with Salvador Barberà and Peter Hammond the *Handbook of Utility Theory* (appearing at Kluwer Academic Publishers/Springer Economics), has dedicated most of his research to utility and decision theory, social choice theory, welfare economics, and public economics. During the last decade, he has turned part of his attention to a research tool that is increasingly gaining in importance in economics: the laboratory experiment. This volume is an attempt to illuminate all facets of Christian Seidl’s ambitious research agenda by presenting a collection of both theoretical and experimental papers on *Utility, Choice, and Welfare* written by his closest friends, former students, and much valued colleagues.

Christian Seidl was born on August 5, 1940, in Vienna, Austria. Beginning Winter term 1962/63, he studied Economics and Business Administration at the Vienna School of Economics (then “Hochschule für Welthandel”). 1966 he was awarded an MBA by the Vienna School of Economics and 1969 a doctoral degree in Economics. In October 1968 Christian became a research assistant at the Institute of Economics at the University of Vienna. 1973 he acquired his habilitation (right to teach) in Economics — supervised by Wilhelm Weber — from the Department of Law and Economics of the University of Vienna. He was awarded the Dr. Theodor-Körner Preis in 1970 and 1975 and the Leopold-Kunschak-Preis in 1974.

In July 1975 he was appointed a professorship in Economics at the University of Graz, Austria. He held the position as Director of the Institute of Public Economics there since its foundation in 1976. With effect of October 1986 he accepted a position as a Professor of Economics at the University of Kiel, Germany. Since then he has held the position as Director of the Institute of Public Finance and Social Policy (now merged with other institutes to the department of economics) at the University of Kiel. In addition he was elected as a Director of the Lorenz-von-Stein Institute for Administrative Sciences at the University of Kiel in 1998.

Since 1970 he has given lectures in public economics, social policy, and other fields at the Universities of Vienna, Linz, Graz, and Kiel. In 1983 he was elected as a corresponding member to the Austrian Academy of Sciences. He is a member of the Verein für Socialpolitik, of the American Economic Association, of the Econometric
Society, of the Royal Economic Society and of the European Economic Association. Christian Seidl has been a co-editor of the Journal of Economics/Zeitschrift für Nationalökonomie since 1980, of Economic Systems since 1988, and of History of Economic Ideas since 1992. He served as a member of the editorial board of the European Journal of Political Economy between 1983 and 1998. He was a visiting scholar at the Universities of Oxford, Stanford (several times), and British Columbia (Vancouver), at Queen’s University (Kingston), and at Beer Sheva (Israel).

Between 1979 and 1985 he served as a member of the Austrian Tax Reform Commission, and between 1982 and 1986 he was a member of the extended managing committee of the Verein für Socialpolitik. He has acted as an expert for the Österreichischer Forschungsförderungsfonds, the Jubiläumsfonds der Österreichischen Nationalbank, the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, the Stiftung Volkswagenwerk, and the Fritz-Thyssen Stiftung.

Christian Seidl has published more than 120 articles in learned journals, proceedings volumes, and lexicographical works. He is the author of three books and has edited or co-edited 10 books in various fields of Economics. He regularly attends the congresses of the European Economic Association, the Econometric Society, the Verein für Socialpolitik, the Society for Social Choice and Welfare, the FUR Conferences, and other related meetings.

Christian Seidl has been our academic teacher since the early 90’s. He not only supervised our dissertations and habilitations, but he also always lend a ready ear to our questions and concerns. Right from the start, he paid much attention to an international orientation of his students. Besides all his professional support, we are very grateful for the excellent work atmosphere we enjoyed at Christian Seidl’s chair. We will never forget many enjoyable evenings (and hope for more) at the Seidls’ home with excellent food and tons of good (red Bordeaux) wine. In particular, we would like to express our thanks to Christine Seidl, Christian’s wife, who has been very effective in creating a familiar atmosphere.

Finally, we would like to thank all people who made this volume possible. First and foremost, we have to mention “our” authors Michael Ahlheim, Otwin Becker, Michele Bernasconi, the late Dieter Bös, Hans Wolfgang Brachinger, Valentino Dardanoni, Dirk Engelmann, Oliver Frör, Susanne Fuchs-Seliger, Ana Guerrero, Carmen Herrero, Veronika Grimm, Peter Hammond, John Hey, Martin Kolmar, Christos Koulovatianos, Johannes Leitner, Ulrike Leopold-Wildburger, Robin Pope, Carsten Schröder, Kotaro Suzumura, Walter Trockel, and John Weymark. We thank Herma Drees, Cathelijne van Herwaarden, and Elseliene van der Klooster from Springer Economics for their superb support. Philip Kornrumpf assisted us with some LaTeX figures. Last but not least, we would like to thank our sponsors.

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Ulrich Schmidt and Stefan Traub